

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 223456

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223456

EXDIS TOSEC 45

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE OCT 9, 1974 FROM MEXICO
REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8593

EXDIS

TO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS CU MX US

SUBJECT: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: OAS, CUBA

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT IN
PREPARING BRIEFING PAPERS FOR THE PRESIDENT ON SUBJECTS
WHICH MAY ARISE DURING SUBJECT MEETING.

2. OAS:

A. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME GAP BETWEEN PUBLIC
STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND PRIVATE ATTITUDE OF
FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ON THIS SUBJECT. ECHEVERRIA HAS
REPEATEDLY CALLED OAS "OBSOLETE", AND "MORIBUND" AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 223456

CLEARLY WANTS TO SEE ITS CHARACTER FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED.
DURING HIS RECENT SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR, ECHEVERRIA CALLED

FOR A NEW REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT, EXCLUDE U.S. THOUGH HE DID NOT SUGGEST THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WOULD REPLACE THE OAS, IT WOULD (IF IDEA PROSPERED, WHICH IT HAS NOT THUS FAR) CLEARLY SUPPLANT SOME PRESENT OAS FUNCTIONS.

B. GOM, HOWEVER, AS REPRESENTED BY ACTIONS VS. WORDS, CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE OAS AND PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN EFFORTS TO REFORM THE OAS FROM WITHIN. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ASSIGNS SOME OF ITS BEST DIPLOMATS TO OAS AFFAIRS, AND THE GOM CAMPAIGNS ACTIVELY FOR ELECTIVE AND SECRETARIAT POSITIONS. MEXICANS MISS NO OPPORTUNITY TO USE OAS FORUM AS SOUNDING BOARD FOR GOM POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. GOM IS REALLY SEEKING TO ORIENT OAS MORE TOWARDS LATIN AMERICAN INTERESTS AND AWAY FROM WHAT IT CONSIDERS ARE OUTDATED US SECURITY CONCERNS. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT ECHEVERRIA WILL RAISE TOPIC OF OAS FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BUT MAY REFER TO IT IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER TOPICS, INCLUDING THAT OF CUBA.

3. CUBA: DURING PAST YEAR GOM HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY VOCAL IN SUPPORT OF VIEW THAT CUBA SHOULD RETURN TO THE INTER-AMERICAN "FAMILY". (MEXICANS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT CASTRO IS NOT INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO THE OAS.) THE GOM'S PRIMARY MOTIVATION APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE MEXICO'S STANDING WITH THE THIRD WORLD. TO A SOMEWHAT LESSER EXTENT, MEXICO SEEKS A LEADING ROLE AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT RESTORATION OF CUBA TO SOME SORT OF STRUCTURED, RESPECTABLE STANDING WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. DESPITE THE FOREGOING, HOWEVER, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA EVIDENCES AT LEAST SOME CONTINUING CONCERN OVER CUBA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ROLE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LA. HE FEELS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT JAMAICA SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, PRESUMABLY AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO CUBA IN THE CARIBBEAN. APPARENTLY HE HAS STILL NOT SET A DATE FOR HIS LONG-FORECAST VISIT TO CUBA, THOUGH HE SENDS CABINET MINISTERS
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PAGE 03 STATE 223456

FROM TIME TO TIME IN ORDER, HE SAYS, TO DELAY HIS OWN VISIT THERE. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ECHEVERRIA WILL URGE THE US SUPPORT MEASURES TO END CUBA'S PRESENT CONDITION OF OSTRACISM.
JOVA UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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